

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

July 13, 2022

President Joseph R. Biden Jr.  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden,

We write today to express our strong opposition to your rejection of the request made by Israel to have officials join you in your visit to East Jerusalem outside of the Old City.

Jerusalem today is the undivided capital of the State of Israel, as recognized by U.S. law. Yet, your administration continues to signal support for the division of the city. The Jerusalem Embassy Act of 1995 clearly states that “Jerusalem should remain an undivided city in which the rights of every ethnic and religious group are protected...Jerusalem should be recognized as the capital of the State of Israel.” We were therefore dismayed when your administration proposed to reopen the U.S. Consulate in Israel’s eternal capital, Jerusalem, that would provide separate diplomatic outreach to the Palestinians. After the subsequent move to shift the Palestinian Affairs Unit (PAU) out of the U.S. Ambassador to Israel’s reporting chain of command and rename the PAU the “U.S. Office of Palestinian Affairs,” your visit will only further serve to support the Palestinian Authority’s efforts to divide Jerusalem.

Additionally, this would discourage a stable, secure future by rewarding rather than acknowledging the real obstacles to peace demanded by the Palestinian Authority. We have seen the Palestinian Authority refuse to recognize Israel’s right to exist as a Jewish State, support terrorism through incitement to violence and providing payments to terrorists and their families, encourage discriminatory boycotts, divestments, and sanctions (BDS) against Israel, and facilitate an illegitimate International Criminal Court (ICC) investigation for false charges against Israel, to name just a few examples. Just today, a U.N. Committee is gathering to consider allegations of mistreatment and torture carried out by the Palestinian Authority.

No U.S. President in recent history has visited East Jerusalem outside of the Old City, and to do so now in this manner would serve to inflame tension, rather than advance peace. We urge you not to visit East Jerusalem during your visit to Israel's eternal capital, Jerusalem, and to respect the wishes of our close ally, Israel.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lee Zeldin'.

Lee Zeldin  
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Doug Lamborn'.

Doug Lamborn  
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'David Kustoff'.

David Kustoff  
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Joe Wilson'.

Joe Wilson  
Member of Congress